



**Multi-Modal Transportation Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2015
3:00-5:00 PM
1st Floor Conference Room -
City Hall**

Commission Members Attending: Jim Grode, Bruce Emory, Julie Mayfield, Till Dohse, Terri March, , Mary Weber, Bob Roepnack, Kristy Carter and Don Kostelec.

Commission Members Absent: Josh O'Connor, John Ridout and Steven Obremski

Council Liaison: Absent

COA Staff Members: Mariate Echeverry, Martha McGlohon, Jeff Moore, Janet GeorgeMurr, Barb Mee.

Community Members: None

- **March 25, 2015 Agenda:** Request from Julie to add under Old Business: DOT Study on Pedestrian Safety; Mariate requested to combine sidewalk discussion under New Business and Old Business into one agenda item. Mary moved to approve the agenda with above mentioned edits; Bruce seconded; carried unanimously.
- **February 25 2014 Minutes:** Julie moved to approve the minutes; Bruce seconded; carried unanimously.

● **Public Comment:** None

New Business:

● **Sidewalks-CIP list from last year's projects:** Staff attended the Festival of Neighborhoods to obtain input on how to weigh the criteria for the Neighborhood Sidewalk Program. Tabulation will be available in approximately 3 weeks either through the Transit and Greenway Committees or to MMTC. A handout showing the list of candidates for FY13-14 for CIP consideration was discussed at the Transit and Greenway Committee meetings.

Q&A:

-Bruce asked the status of the GIS data – Barb stated that the data should be complete in a couple of days and the Neighborhood Sidewalk Committee meeting will be scheduled.

-Julie asked about the allocation of funding for multimodal projects in the CIP. MMTC will need to review the updated list to recommend where funding would be applied. Staff will review.

● **Maintaining Pedestrian Traffic During Construction:** Jim stated that the issue is during building projects; often the sidewalks adjacent to those projects will be closed down without accommodation for pedestrian traffic. Does this get considered; what are the laws; and how to affect that.

-Barb explained that the laws for maintaining pedestrian traffic during construction are ADA and Federal Manual and Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

-Barb explained the process for street closure permitting to include special events, development and maintenance for private building; utility cuts and repairs; City projects and other request for street/lane closures.

-A question was asked if there is a policy in place for pedestrian safety during construction.

-Martha recommended reviewing the Public Works Department's factors, standards, guidelines in closing a sidewalk.

-Don stated that restoring the conditions after construction should also be part of the guidelines.

-Martha explained that in the restoration of cuts there is a process set forth in the Public Works Department and is contracted with MSD.

-Jeff stated that this could be added to the Standards and Specifications.

-Jim would like to see this moved forward as this will continue to be an issue as more development occurs and densifies.

-Terri stated not only to maintain the corridor for pedestrians during construction to include bicycling or any kind of transportation.

●**Traffic Calming Program:** Jeff reported that traffic calming is one of the most important issues that Transportation deals with and the biggest part is changing driver behavior.

Summary:

-Jeff is using a “tool box” of several different approaches.

-The most visible are speed humps. In order to meet the standard of fire coverage, a list of 25 of 27 locations for speed humps were submitted to the Fire Department, 18 did not meet the standards. The Fire Department loses up to 11 seconds of delay in areas that have speed humps.

-23 project locations for speed humps were recently submitted to the Fire Department.

-Jeff informs the neighborhoods by correspondence that they do not meet Fire Department’s standard of fire coverage but will try other means of traffic calming.

-Education; enforcement; and engineering, a three prong approach.

-Neighborhoods would pledge to drive the speed limit (to include stickers and signs in neighborhoods and in the City);

-“Shareways” is under discussion and development, which are streets that may never have a sidewalk, due to volume and/or location; to inform people to share the road with all modes of transportation; and the citizens are interested and willing to help.

-Jim stated that there are a lot of parallels between the traffic calming program and the Neighborhood Sidewalk Program.

-Jeff stated now that funding is available the need to determine how to implement the programs. The criteria are based on volume and speed.

-Jeff has determined from the counters that give speed and volume that speed is not the issue; therefore, speed humps are not the appropriate treatment; traffic calming is being focused on speed humps for the funding.

-Bob suggests having the speed indicators.

-Jeff stated that the speed indicators are effective in school zones and in the future to have the same equipment installed at schools in Asheville.

-NCDOT has invited City Transportation to meet with the road safety review team to help with Spears and Annandale.

-NCDOT is also having a pedestrian study in Asheville. This is an opportunity to discuss Tunnel Rd, Patton Ave, and Leicester Hwy.

-Julie emphasized that MMTC members need to be part of the study and a list was sent to Ken.

-Jeff suggests that when DOT does the scoping to invite them to MMTC meeting to listen to some of the areas of concern.

-Julie stated this is a City problem and as multimodal leaders of this City need to be in the forefront. It is great that DOT is funding a study; but MMTC could bring a lot to the conversation that DOT is leading.

-Jeff will talk with Regional Safety Engineer from the Division,

OLD BUSINESS

● **AIM Update:** Mariate reported that the AIM Charrette was very successful.

Summary:

The consultants developed the street typologies during the charrette; consultant met with public and staff; 100+ in attendance; the consultants will produce a report and discuss the next steps. Next steps: Developing the priority matrix; develop land use community’s typologies in order to feed the transportation portion to determine how the priorities fall; a 2nd Symposium, date not yet determined.

● **Retreat Update:** Jim reported that the poll will be sent out to the MMTC members; and looking at May as the feasible date.

General Committee Updates:

● **Transit Committee (TC):** Julie reported:

1. TC gained 2 members and lost 1 member;

2. A Riverlink representative recommended lowering the advertising rates for non-profits; Mariate stated that staff will come back to TC due to unclear policy language; and will need to be discussed.

3. TC is working on a behavior guidelines for riders, drivers and the City’s system to have clarity on how to act and setting exceptions appropriately between and among those three entities; and the possibility of presenting at one of the MMTC meetings.

●**Greenway Committee (GC):** Mary reported:

1. In lieu of a regular meeting, GC took a field trip to the entire Swannanoa River proposed greenway which is one of the feasibility studies.
2. Visited Azalea Road with the new bridge and bikes lanes; and walked the section opposite the soccer fields which features wetlands, birding, agricultural area, and a connection to Highland Brewer which is interested in partnering with the City to help on greenway.
3. Toured the proposed Beverly Hills and Haw Creek greenways;
4. Future fields trips proposed – West Asheville
4. Discussion on advocacy with Council to have a multimodal feasible study to make the Azalea Road corridor adequate to handle the stresses that will be put on it and would be a priority, as well as the rest of the Swannanoa Greenway and Reed Creek extensions.

●**Bike/Ped Task Force:** Terri reported that there was not a meeting in February due to weather but will meet on 3/26/15;

1. Don reported that Bike Friendly and Walk Friendly application status and the update;
2. Two “bike-friendly” community signs went up on Merrimon and Amboy Roads;
3. 515 participants in the Bike of the Irish;
4. Barb reported that the Task Force is working with her on the Watch For Me application that is a pedestrian safety campaign that NCDOT provides.

●**P&Z:** Kristy reported that P&Z had mid-month meeting to start on the planning issues; but Kristy was unable to attend.

●**Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC):** Bob reported:

1. NAC very interested in the Neighborhood Sidewalk Committee. Marsha gave a presentation and questions generated as to why Haw Creek was picked for sidewalks without the criteria. Alan Glines of Planning would like to be informed on the criteria developed by the Sidewalk Committee.
2. City wide clean up date in April with all neighborhoods in conjunction with Asheville Greenwerks.
3. Evaluation of Festival of Neighborhood and the comments on the feedback were mostly positive and well attended;
4. In May there will be East Regional Planning meeting. More information is forthcoming.

SACEE: Julie reported:

1. Ken did a presentation on U-Haul Car Sharing Program.
2. Trying to do more marketing on social media of the Car Sharing program with Ken.
3. Engaging some non-profits to help promote to their members i.e., Asheville on Bikes, Mountain True, etc.
4. Talking with the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau advertising in the tourist package.
5. Terri stated that Ken mentioned that several downtown residents have foregone their vehicle due to the Car Sharing Program.

STAFF UPDATES:

◆**Project updates:** Mariate stated the City received 25% design drawings for the RADTIP, staff is reviewing it and the next step is to have a public meeting to be determined in the next two months.

-Bruce asked about the New Haw Creek Sidewalk that pushed back to FY16-17. Staff will find out.

●**Public Comment:** None

●**Agenda Items:**

1. CIP project funding on multimodal allocation;
2. Discussion on creating a standing subcommittee of MMTTC that meets regularly with NCDOT.

4:25pm – Jim adjourned the meeting